

INFORMATION LETTER

Not for
Publication

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

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Highlights of the Week

OPA expects to issue the second quarter sugar allotments next week. It is understood that the supply situation will permit increased use of sugar, for commodities cut last year, over that allowed last year but not up to the levels of 1944.

Copies of Order M-81 were mailed Tuesday by the N.C.A. to all member-canners, State canner association secretaries, and to canners generally.

The long-awaited report of the Senate Education and Labor Committee on the proposed amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act, was submitted to the Senate on March 5 (see story on page 126).

Backed by a group of influential Western Senators, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson will appeal to the President and to the Cabinet to permit the use of prisoner of war labor during the 1946 farming and processing season (see page 128 for details).

Salmon canners were notified this week by the Department of Interior that no action will be taken this season either to impose an upper limit on salmon trap site holdings or to establish a system of preferences. (Complete story on page 122.)

While the Association continues its endeavors to secure housing and feeding equipment for the use of the industry, it is suggested that canners individually attempt to purchase their requirements for handling migratory labor by contacting local Army depots. The Army, as well as all other government agencies, has authority to sell items of surplus material in small lots valued at not more than \$300.

All large supplies of equipment used for feeding purposes that are declared surplus are being taken by priority claimants under the Surplus Property Disposal Act. Therefore, for this reason such supplies are not to be found in dealers' hands.

"Hardship" Cases to Get Tin

Officials of the Civilian Production Administration have assured the Association that every effort will be made to allot tin for canned food items now under packing quotas and that first preference will be given "hardship" cases. (Tin Conservation Order M-81, issued March 1 by the CPA established packing quotas for all non-seasonal items and for some seasonal canned foods. See INFORMATION LETTER for March 2, page 113.) At the same time, CPA said that all grants awarded canners under Direction 9 to M-81 would remain in effect, and that even though these grants may allow a canner to exceed the packing quota permitted him for a specific item under the revised order, he may still use the cans.

CPA promised as much relief as possible for baked bean packers who have on hand, or have made commitments for large quantities of high-moisture content beans, which are now in danger of sprouting or spoiling, if not processed. Baked bean packers are urged to make appeals at once stating what their tin requirements are and the quantities of beans they have to be canned.

Sauerkraut packers are expected to market as much of their pack as possible in bulk, however, it is believed that tin will be granted them to pack at least one filling of the vats.

With regard to other non-seasonal items in general, CPA officials stated that they would grant additional tin at this time only in "hardship" cases. For example, where a packer cans only one or two items and these happen to be restricted by tin quotas, his production might be so reduced that he would not be able to operate profitably. This would be termed a "hardship" case, and CPA would make every effort to grant additional tin for a canner in this category, if he made the necessary appeals.

OPA Promises to Announce 1946 Pricing Program

As the INFORMATION LETTER went to press, a detailed statement which was supposed to have been issued by the Office of Price Administration outlining the 1946 pricing program for canned fruits and vegetables, was momentarily withheld pending approval of the program by Economic Stabilization Director Chester Bowles. Specific details concerning the program have not been made public, but it is understood that canners will be permitted to increase prices on their 1946 packs to allow for increased wages and other costs. General details on the OPA program are contained in a letter written by Chairman Howard T. Cumming of the OPA Canned Fruit and Vegetable Advisory Committee, published in last week's INFORMATION LETTER on pages 113 and 114.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR REFUSES TO TAKE ACTION ON ALASKA SALMON TRAP HOLDINGS OR PREFERENCES

Issues 1946 Fishing Regulations and Announces Alaska Hearings to Be Held in Fall

Oscar L. Chapman, Acting Secretary of the Interior, announced March 6 that no action will be taken at this time either to impose an upper limit on salmon trap site holdings in Alaska or to establish a general system of preferences with respect to occupancy of trap sites. With the announcement he made public a notice of amendments to be incorporated in the Alaska Fishing Regulations for 1946 and an opinion to accompany the amendments. (The amendments and opinion are reproduced in full in this article.)

Secretary Chapman said that since preparations for the Alaska salmon season, which will begin in some districts in May, are already under way and a heavy pre-season investment already has been made by last season's occupants of trap sites, it appears unlikely, if sites were to be thrown open to competition by imposition of a 20-trap limitation, that they could be supplied with traps and effectively occupied by "new-comers" in 1946. The uncertainty as to which sites would be or should be subjected to competition and the practical difficulties of time and cost would inevitably result in a curtailment of this year's output of canned salmon, and this result the Department is not willing to create or permit in view of the international food shortage, Secretary Chapman declared.

The new Alaska fishing regulations will, however, prohibit occupants of 10 or more sites from acquiring additional sites. "This," said Secretary Chapman, "would effect no discernible change in volume of 1946 production and is in my opinion a desirable provision to guard against any increase in the concentration of private control over an extremely valuable part of the public domain."

Hearings on the proposed changes in the Alaska fishing regulations were held in Washington from February 21 to February 25. Because of the distance and expense involved in bringing interested parties to Washington to testify, the hearings will be resumed in Alaska, with reference to the 1947 regulations, following the close of the 1946 fishing season, Secretary Chapman announced. These hearings will be held in Kodiak, Seldovia, Cordova, Juneau, Sitka, Klawak, Wrangell, and Ketchikan in the fall.

"It developed in the course of the

hearing," the Secretary stated in a written opinion accompanying the amendments, "that a comparatively small number of those who hold War Department permits for trap sites did not themselves operate the traps, but simply leased, for a substantial rental, the right to use the site. There can be no defense of a system under which a private individual is able to lease for a profit a part of the public domain, and the practice should be stopped as soon as possible."

Trap Site Lessees Warned

Secretary Chapman declared, however, "the beneficiaries of this system, however indefensible it may appear, are entitled to be heard before the system is changed. It accordingly seems best to defer action until the 1947 season, and merely to serve notice at this time that the permit holder who leases rather than operates his trap site in 1946 is not likely to be allowed to occupy the site in 1947."

Although the Department's salmon conservation program in Alaska has "succeeded in reducing the number of trap sites to 440, from 799 in 1924, 221 of those sites are now occupied by eight companies, and for some years no trap sites have been available to newcomers in the field. This is a condition the Department, as the guardian of the public resources, is anxious to see corrected," the opinion stated.

"Administrative regulation or statutory action in this field is not confined to the Federal Government. The White Act expressly disclaims any intention to deny to the Legislature of Alaska the power to regulate the fishing industry by licensing or taxation. The Territorial Legislature meets in special session within a few days. In accordance with the Department's policy of favoring increased legislative responsibility in the territorial areas, it is appropriate and desirable that an opportunity be given to the Alaskan Legislature to enact suitable legislation to deal with this problem. Appropriate and effective action by the Legislature may obviate the necessity for further changes in the 1947 regulations."

Notice of Amendments

Following is the complete text of the Notice of Amendments to be incorporated in the Alaska Commercial Fishing Regulations for 1946:

1. In order to secure the conservation of the salmon supply of Alaska in a manner consistent with the re-

quirements and purposes of the Act of June 6, 1924 (43 Stat. 404), and related legislation, to prevent the development of monopoly and the maintenance of exclusive rights in the maritime public domain in violation of such acts, and to provide machinery which in this and subsequent years will permit the determination of disputes over trap locations with the least possible disruption to the catching and processing of salmon, the following paragraphs will be included in the 1946 Alaska Commercial Fishing Regulations:

Sec. 201.23. On or before April 15, 1946, any person who has obtained or applied for a permit from the War Department for the occupation of a trap site may file with the Regional Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service at Juneau notice of this fact and of its location. Failure to file such notice shall be cause for closing the trap of such permit holder if there be a competing permit holder who has filed such a notice.

Sec. 201.24. In case there shall be two or more permit holders for a single site, the Regional Director shall give notice of this fact to all conflicting permit holders who have filed notices under the preceding section. Any permit holder who has filed such a notice may request, through the Regional Director, the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative to determine, prior to the opening of the fishing season, which of the permit holders is entitled to occupy the site for the coming season. The Secretary or his representative, upon such a request, may call for affidavits or other evidence showing the interests and equities of the competing applicants, and shall determine and announce the action which the Fish and Wildlife Service will take with respect to closing the competing traps after opening of the fishing season. This determination will be based upon (a) the provisions of section 201.25, (b) any applicable law or regulation of the United States or the Territory of Alaska then in effect, or (c) the policy hitherto established of closing all traps in the area of conflict pending a judicial determination or other settlement.

Sec. 201.25. No person shall be permitted to increase the number of trap sites which he occupies over the number occupied in the preceding season if such increase would result in his occupation of more than 10 sites. The Secretary or his authorized representative may, however, in exceptional cases authorize such an increase for the 1946 season upon good cause shown. Any trap site occupied in violation of this section will be closed.

Sec. 201.26. As used in sections 201.23 to 201.25:

(a) "Person" and "permit holder" include individual, firm, association, partnership, or corporation.

(b) "Occupation" of a trap site means the care, service, and use of

a trap by the permit holder, whether the trap be installed by him or another.

2. Notice is hereby given that, subject to any change of policy resulting from the hearings announced in paragraph 3 of this notice, the Alaska Fishing Regulations for 1947 will contain provisions which will serve to exclude from any trap site a person who held a permit for that site in 1946 and who did not himself occupy such site but instead leased or assigned such site to another person under arrangements by which the permit holder did not bear all or a substantial part of the expenses and financial risk involved in the installation, care, service, and use of the trap.

3. Subject to future changes, the hearings commenced on February 21, 1946, at Washington, D. C., will be resumed in Alaska in October, 1946, and will be directed to the following subjects for consideration with reference to the 1947 regulations:

(a) Limitation of the number of trap sites which may be occupied by a single owner.

(b) Preference in the allocation of trap sites to small operators and for residents, communities, and cooperatives of Alaska.

(c) The provision forecasted in paragraph 2 of this notice.

(d) The machinery by which any limitation or preference might be accomplished.

The Department of the Interior will endeavor to announce the terms of the regulations proposed for discussion and the places and times of the hearings at least 30 days in advance of the first of such hearings.

Signed March 5, 1946, by Oscar L. Chapman, Acting Secretary of the Interior.

Opinion

On February 21, 22, 23, and 25, 1946, public hearings were held in Washington on proposed amendments to the Alaska Commercial Fishing Regulations for 1946. The proposals, issued on January 31, included (1) a limitation to 20 of the trap sites which could be occupied by one person; (2) a prohibition of any increase in the sites occupied by one person which would bring his total number to more than 10; and (3) a system of preferences to be applicable in determining who might occupy sites, preference being given to persons already occupying no more than 10 sites and to residents of Alaska.

For reasons hereafter detailed, it has been determined that no action should be taken at this time either to impose an upper limit on trap site holdings or to establish a general system of preferences with respect to the occupancy of trap sites. Certain minimal measures appear, however, to be required in 1946 to prevent a deterioration

in the current situation. The regulations for 1946 will forbid any increase in the concentration of control over trap sites during the coming year, and will establish, largely for experimental purposes, machinery for the resolution of the few disputes which may arise in 1946 over trap site occupancy.

Under the regulations issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service of this Department, the fishing season in Alaska lasts an average of 30 to 40 days; it opens at varying times in the several districts, commencing in the latter part of May. Evidence at the hearings established that it was necessary to secure gear, crews, supplies, and piling in the United States. In order to have the traps in working condition by the opening of the season, these items must be shipped beginning as early as the middle of March. A heavy pre-season investment has already been made by last year's occupants. It appears unlikely, if sites were to be thrown open to competition by imposition of a 20-trap limitation or by a preference for small operators or residents, that they could be supplied with traps and effectively occupied by newcomers in 1946.

The uncertainty as to which sites would or should be subjected to competition and the practical difficulties of time and cost would inevitably result in a curtailment of the output of canned salmon this year, and this result the Department is not willing to create or permit in view of the serious international food shortage. On the other hand, to prohibit occupants of 10 or more sites from acquiring additional sites would effect no discernible change in volume of 1946 production and is in my opinion a desirable provision to guard against any increase in the concentration of private control over an extremely valuable part of the public domain.

It developed in the course of the hearings that a comparatively small number of those who held War Department permits for the trap sites did not themselves operate the trap, but simply leased, for a substantial rental, the right to use the site. There can be no defense of a system under which a private individual is able to lease for a profit a part of the public domain, even though its strategic location were ascertained through the effort and expense of the individual, and the practice should be stopped as soon as possible. If, however, these leased sites were closed in 1946 there would be an adverse effect upon salmon production. The notice of January 31 contained, moreover, no provision which was directed to this practice, and I have been impressed by the view that the beneficiaries of this system, however indefensible it may appear, are entitled to be heard before the system is changed. It accordingly seems best to defer action until the 1947 season, and merely to serve notice at this time that the permit holder who leases rather

than operates his trap site in 1946 is not likely to be allowed to occupy the site in 1947.

Previous regulations of the Department, issued under authority of the White Act (Act of June 6, 1924, 43 Stat. 464), have in the large been directed exclusively to the conservation aspects of that Act. The fact remains, however, that the White Act was also designed to bring about the dissolution of monopoly holdings which by 1924 had developed under the so-called "reservation" system. Although the conservation program has succeeded in reducing the number of trap sites to 440, from 799 in 1924, 221 of those sites are now occupied by eight companies, and for some years no trap sites have been available to newcomers in the field. This is a condition which the Department, as the guardian of the public resources, is anxious to see corrected. Any thorough-going revision of the regulations, however, deserves the most careful study before it should be promulgated. The time and expense required to travel to Washington prevented more than a token representation of the many Alaskan residents who are engaged in the fishing industry. For these reasons, it is proposed that the departmental hearings shall be resumed in Alaska, after the close of the 1946 fishing season, in order to consider regulations for 1947.

Administrative regulation or statutory action in this field is not confined to the Federal Government. The White Act expressly disclaims any intention to deny to the Legislature of Alaska the power to regulate the fishing industry by licensing or taxation. The Territorial Legislature is now meeting in special session. In accordance with the Department's policy of favoring increased legislative responsibility in the territorial areas, it is appropriate and desirable that an opportunity be given the Alaskan Legislature to enact suitable legislation to deal with this problem. Appropriate and effective action by the Legislature may obviate the necessity for any very extensive changes in the 1947 regulations.

Signed by Oscar L. Chapman, Acting Secretary of the Interior, March 5, 1946.

1945 Glass Container Output

Production of glass containers during 1945 reached 105 million gross, more than twice the prewar 1939 output of 52 million gross, according to manufacturers' reports to the Bureau of the Census. Shipments during 1945 were even higher than production, and totaled 106 million gross. Stocks declined during the year, fell from 5.6 million gross on January 1 to 4.3 million gross on December 31.

Food containers, other than dairy products, as a class, showed the most important gain. Shipments for this group totaled 41 million gross in 1945.

1945 Production of Fish and Shellfish Declines Slightly from 1944; Pacific Pilchards and Alaska Salmon Show Largest Drop

United States production of fish and shellfish during 1945 amounted to approximately 4.4 billion pounds, a decline of less than one percent from the 4.5 billion pounds caught the previous year, according to a preliminary estimate of production reported this week by Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The total 1945 catch of fish and shellfish brought fishermen an estimated \$230,000,000 which exceeded the value of the 1944 catch—the previous record—by \$23,000,000.

The pack of canned fish and shellfish declined approximately four percent compared with 1944, Dr. Gabrielson said. Production in the major seafood canning industries in 1944 and 1945 was as follows:

	1945 Standard cases	1944 Standard cases
Salmon:		
Alaska.....	4,302,895	4,893,059
United States.....	530,000	245,888
Total.....	4,832,895	5,138,947
Sardines:		
Maine.....	2,600,000	2,919,500
California.....	3,786,752	3,509,686
Total.....	6,386,752	6,419,186
Tuna.....	4,025,658	3,560,020
Mackerel:		
East coast.....	50,085	232,780
West coast.....	635,889	992,280
Total.....	685,974	1,225,060
Shrimp.....	142,000	401,178

Compared with the average of the past four years, more of the fish catch was utilized in the fresh or frozen state, while somewhat less went into the production of canned fish and by-products, Dr. Gabrielson reported. About the same quantity—a relatively small amount—was cured. The 1945 catch was utilized as follows: 1.7 billion pounds went to the markets for fresh and frozen fish, 1.2 billion pounds were canned, 1.4 were utilized as by-products, and 0.1 billion pounds were cured.

The sharpest decline occurred in the nation's largest fishery, the Pacific Coast sardine industry. The catch of sardines, or pilchards, was 1,136,000,000 pounds in 1944, but dropped to 832,000,000 pounds in 1945. Largely due to the smaller pilchard catch, production in the Pacific Coast States and Alaska fell from 2,171,000,000 pounds in 1944 to 1,829,000,000 pounds last year. Among other major fisheries of the area, mackerel and salmon showed declines which, however, were largely offset by gains in tuna and Alaska herring.

The catch of tuna rose to 183 million pounds, from 170 million in 1944. The gain in this important fishery was in part due to the return of some of the vessels that had been requisitioned for military service, the building of new boats, and the opening to fishing of certain areas closed during the war for security reasons, Dr. Gabrielson said.

The Alaska herring fishery also showed a gain—from 113 million pounds in 1944 to over 120 million pounds in 1945. Practically the entire catch of this fishery is utilized in the manufacture of oil and meal.

Production of salmon declined from 431 million to 420 million pounds while Pacific mackerel, a highly variable fishery, fell from 93 million to 60 million pounds.

Production on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and in the Great Lakes and Mississippi River increased slightly from the 1944 level, totaling 2,546,000,000 pounds in 1945, compared with 2,333,000,000 pounds the previous year.

The major ports in the New England area had the busiest year in their history, handling approximately 568 million pounds, a gain of more than 100 million pounds over 1944. Landings at these ports consist chiefly of haddock, rosefish, cod, flounders, and other species sold in the fresh fish markets.

The menhaden fishery, heaviest producer on the Atlantic coast, showed some gain compared with 1944. The 1945 production was 740 million pounds; while in 1944, 685 million were caught. Menhaden are used principally in the manufacture of meal and oil.

Gabrielson Resigns; Day Named Fish and Wildlife Service Head

Acting Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman on Thursday announced that Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, would retire on April 1 and would be succeeded by Albert M. Day, now assistant director of the Service. Dr. Gabrielson, a native of Iowa, has been director of the Service since it was formed in 1940 through the consolidation of the United States Biological Survey, of which he had been chief since 1935, and the Bureau of Fisheries. He has had continuous employment with the Service and its predecessor agencies for more than 30 years.

Mr. Day, who was born in Nebraska, but is a legal resident of Wyoming,

has been associated with the Service or the Survey since 1919 when he was appointed a field assistant. He became assistant director in 1942.

Dr. Gabrielson was in large part responsible for the extension of the national wildlife refuge program to its present size, for the State aid program under the Pittman-Robertson Act, and for work of the Service in building up the continental migratory waterfowl population which had reached dangerous lows in the middle 30's. He is the author of several books dealing with wildlife conservation and management and also of numerous scientific articles.

USDA Announces Recommended 1946 Goals for Fishery Products

The U. S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture announced this week that the production goals for fishery products in the United States, including Alaska, for the calendar year 1946 have been submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of Interior. The goals, which represent recommendations of the Department of Agriculture, are as follows:

Canned fish and shellfish (net weight)—811,000,000 lbs.

Cured fish (marketed weight, cured)—100,000,000 lbs.

Fresh and frozen fish and shellfish (round weight)—1,701,000,000 lbs.

Fish meal (net weight)—265,000 tons.

Fish liver oil (net including imported oils or Vitamin A made therefrom)—70 trillion units of Vitamin A.

The goals are substantially the same as those established for the various categories last year, with the exception of cured fish. Because of the heavy demand and the removal of certain wartime regulations affecting the catch, the goal for cured fish has been set at 10,000,000 pounds above that for 1945.

The general food situation, according to Department spokesmen, would have justified higher goals in all categories. It was necessary, however, to keep the goals within the limits of the maximum quantities likely to be produced.

The announced goal for fresh and frozen fish equals the best available estimate of the total 1945 production of these products. The figure this year, however, is expressed in round weight equivalents instead of edible weights as was done last year. Stated in round weight equivalent, the goal is slightly higher this year than last. No increase has been requested above the actual 1945 production because of present large stocks of frozen fish and ap-

parent limitations on the expansion of facilities for marketing fresh fish.

The goal for canned fish and shell fish was retained at the 1945 level, even though governmental requirements have been reduced. Civilian needs, Department officials explained, will more than offset such reductions.

The goal of 265,000 tons for fish meal falls considerably short of fish meal needs for livestock and poultry feeding. It was explained, however, that the critical world food situation has made it necessary to give preference to foods for direct human consumption rather than for use as animal feed, fertilizer, or related uses.

Fishing Industry Warned That Container Shortage Is Serious

The U. S. Department of Agriculture advised the fish industry this week that it faces a serious shortage of wooden and fiber containers for the next several months. Department spokesmen said that production of such containers is far below normal, and no improvement can be expected until fall.

The industry was urged to conserve and re-use old containers wherever possible, anticipate requirements for new containers, and place orders promptly. The industry was advised also to take delivery of containers whenever and wherever they are available.

Shortages of logs and labor, bad weather and other factors were blamed by the Department for the reduced output of wooden containers. The tin plate supply situation is also reported as tight, but Department officials are confident that the fish industry's seasonal requirements for tin cans, particularly for quality fish, will be met.

Where members of the industry are unable to obtain containers after contacting known sources of supply, the matter should be promptly reported to the Fish and Fish Products Division, Special Commodities Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, Washington 25, D. C. Such action will not assure a supply of containers, but the Branch will endeavor to locate and direct movements of new and used containers to areas of extremely short supply.

Grapefruit Juice Export Ratings

Canned grapefruit juice has been added to the general export license list, the Office of International Trade of the Department of Commerce has announced.

USDA ANNOUNCES A NATIONWIDE PRICE SUPPORT TO HELP INCREASE POULTRY MARKETING AND CANNING

Canners Called on to Step up Poultry Canning to Conserve Food and Feed Grains

A nationwide chicken price-support program to aid producers in marketing their poultry in the present feed emergency was announced March 6 by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson. An already tight feed situation has reached the critical stage as a result of the seriously low world supply of cereals and the measures now in effect to conserve U. S. wheat for human consumption.

Effective March 8, 1946, the USDA will begin its purchase program for dressed chickens, except young chickens weighing $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds or less alive, from cooperative organizations, dealers and processors at prices designed to reflect a U. S. average farm price for live chickens of not less than 90 percent of parity. Currently this will mean support for live poultry at a U. S. average farm price of 18.3 cents a pound with variations for type, weight, and location.

The announced prices for dressed poultry to reflect the support price will vary according to weights, types and quality, and according to four zones established under the program in recognition of usual freight differentials between areas of production and large consumer markets. (The zones, support levels for live chickens, and dressed prices reflecting support which will prevail until further notice, are shown below.)

Through operation of the price-support program, purchases of poultry will be made on a dressed weight basis

from dealers, processors, and cooperative organizations, who certify that they have paid producers not less than the announced support prices for live poultry. All poultry purchased by the USDA will be subject to Federal inspection. The purchases will be made at announced prices on an offer-and-acceptance basis, with deliveries accepted in carlots of poultry packed in ordinary dressed poultry containers. Offers will be received each Wednesday, beginning March 20. The acceptance dates will be each following Friday.

The program provides for the disposition in accordance with legal requirements of the poultry purchased by (1) sales through commercial trade channels (2) sales for export (3) sales to other governmental agencies (4) transfers for use under the school lunch program or by Federal, State, or municipal institutions, and (5) by conversion to canned form for disposition through the outlets designated.

In view of the heavy supply of all poultry already in storage, the nation's poultry canners will be called upon to process a substantial part of the dressed poultry purchased by the USDA for price-support purposes. Under this plan the canned poultry can be stored for reasonably long periods in ordinary storage space of which there is plenty available. This will also help in the disposition of poultry to foreign outlets, few of which are equipped to handle frozen poultry.

The announced prices per pound by classes and grades, and zones established under the program, are as follows:

	Zone I Cents	Zone II Cents	Zone III Cents	Zone IV Cents
Young Chickens—Producer average support prices (over $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds live weight).....	18.50	19.00	19.50	20.00
Grade A Young Chickens (New York style dressed weighing over 36 pounds net per box of 12 birds).....	28.25	28.75	29.25	29.75
Grade B Young Chickens (New York style dressed weighing over 36 pounds net per box of 12 birds).....	26.75	27.25	27.75	28.25
Fowl—Producer average support prices (over $4\frac{1}{2}$ pounds live weight).....	17.00	17.50	18.00	18.50
Grade A Fowl (New York style dressed weighing over 48 pounds net per box of 12 birds).....	25.50	26.00	26.50	27.00
Grade B Fowl (New York style dressed weighing over 48 pounds net per box of 12 birds).....	24.00	24.50	25.00	25.50
Fowl—Producer average support prices (live weight from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ pounds).....	15.50	16.00	16.50	17.00
Grade A Fowl (New York style dressed weighing from 36 to 48 pounds net per box of 12 birds).....	24.00	24.50	25.00	25.50
Grade B Fowl (New York style dressed weighing from 36 to 48 pounds net per box of 12 birds).....	22.50	23.00	23.50	24.00

Zone I—North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

Zone II—Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Zone III—Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Michigan, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and the District of Columbia.

Zone IV—Washington, Oregon, California, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

SENATE GROUP REPORTS WAGE AND HOUR LAW CHANGES

Canners Would Lose Some of Their Exemptions if the Proposed Measure Passes

Senators James M. Tunnell of Delaware and Claude Pepper of Florida jointly reported to the Senate on March 5 the Education and Labor Committee's recommendations for amendment of the Fair Labor Standards Act. The bill is scheduled for Senate action on March 15.

A minority report submitted by Senators Ellender of Louisiana, Taft of Ohio, Ball of Minnesota, Donnell of Missouri, Smith of New Jersey, and Fulbright of Arkansas proposes that the existing exemptions be retained and that the minimum wage be increased to 55 cents an hour during the first 18 months following enactment and thereafter not less than 60 cents an hour. The minority also would provide for a two-year limit on employee suits, extend the child labor provisions by directly prohibiting employment of child labor, and would give courts discretionary jurisdiction in considering the amount of liquidated damages in cases instituted by employees for alleged underpayments of wages.

As reported in the *INFORMATION LETTER* of February 23, the proposed amendments, in addition to increasing the minimum wage, would remove from the Wage and Hour Law the unlimited overtime hours exemption of Section 7(c), the complete wage and hour "area of production" exemption of Section 13(a)(10), and the complete wage and hour exemption for fish processing of Section 13(a)(5). Fishermen, however, still remain exempt.

In lieu of these exemptions the reported bill consolidates them into the narrower seasonal industry exemption to be granted under an amended section 7(b)(3). The seasonal industry provision would be limited to one exemption from overtime pay for 14 weeks in the aggregate in a calendar year for not more than 12 hours work in one day or 56 hours in one week.

With respect to the revised seasonal exemption to be given in the discretion of the Administrator, the "first processing or canning of agricultural or horticultural commodities or fish or other aquatic forms of animal or vegetable life" may be declared to be seasonal industries only if the Administrator also finds that these named industries are characterized by "marked annually recurring peak seasons."

The reported bill extends the general coverage of the Act to include "activities affecting commerce." This term

is defined sufficiently broadly to include agricultural work. Senator Pepper also has given informal notice that he will seek repeal of the agricultural exemption.

The wage recommendations of the bill provide for increasing the minimum to 65 cents an hour during the first and second years following enactment, 70 cents during the third and fourth years and 75 cents thereafter. However, any time after enactment the minimum might be established up to 75 cents an hour by the issuance of a wage order. Although the reported bill does not contain the "job classification" language of the original Pepper bill (see *INFORMATION LETTER* 1047, page 8710), it would still authorize the Administrator, following industry committee investigation, and administrative hearing, to approve "reasonable classifications" determined necessary in establishing "the highest minimum wage" (not in excess of 75 cents an hour) for an industry. Such classifications are not to be made solely on a regional basis nor are they to give a competitive advantage to any group in the affected industry. Should minimums under 75 cents be established, they would cease to remain in effect after four years from the effective date of the amendments.

Seamen, now exempt from wage and hour limitations, would be brought within the minimum wage provisions of the Act. However, as in Senator Pepper's previous bills, the cost of housing and board could not be reflected in determining whether the minimum is paid seamen.

Under the present Act, trucking employees over whom the Interstate Commerce Commission has jurisdiction as to conditions of employment, are exempt from the maximum hour provisions. The bill would confine or limit this exemption to cases where the ICC has actually established qualifications and maximum hours of service pursuant to the provisions of the Motor Carrier Act of 1935.

The committee's recommendations would limit employee suits for unpaid minimum or overtime compensation and liquidated damages to a two-year period following the accrual of such a liability.

House Labor Committee action on the bills to amend the wage and hour law that have been pending since hearings were concluded last fall, has been postponed again. Executive Committee consideration is not now expected to be taken for another two weeks.

CONGRESS SUMMARY

Highlights of Congressional activity of interest to canners are summarized below. For full report of the status of wage and hour legislation, see *SENATE GROUP REPORTS WAGE AND HOUR LAW CHANGES*, on this page.

Price Control Extension

Hearings on extension of price control and stabilization acts continued before the House Committee on Banking and Currency while a subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee heard testimony supporting extension of the Second War Powers Act. The Administration has requested Congress to continue these Acts in force for one year from their present termination date of June 30.

Continuation of the Price Control Act in modified form for one year and extension of the Second War Powers Act for the same period was recommended on March 7 by the Special House Committee on Postwar Economic Policy in its 9th report. Chairman William M. Colmer of Mississippi, in making the report public, stated that "The unforeseen and unfortunate wave of strikes has been a very important factor in slowing down our reconversion program, but it is our earnest hope that these labor-management disputes may soon be settled so that most of these controls can be removed long before the termination of the Act."

The Committee recommended that industries be defined as narrowly as possible in applying the earnings standards so that the profitable but perhaps specialized parts of a business would not obscure losses in other parts. Generally, the suggestions for amendment were characterized by the Committee as designed to "minimize existing inequities, stimulate production, insure the removal of controls immediately upon substantial lessening of the threat of serious inflation, and improve the production and distribution of essential low-cost products."

In addition, the Committee recommended the adoption of these "important fiscal measures": Maintenance of the present Federal income tax rates, curtailment of Federal expenditures, balancing the budget in the 1947 fiscal year and creating a surplus in the following year to be applied against the public debt, continuance of control over consumer credit, enactment of legislation permitting the Federal Reserve authorities to increase substantially reserve requirements against commercial banks' demand and time de-

posits, and request State and local governments to cooperate in limiting public works expenditures.

Senate Redrafts Case Bill

A subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor has been delegated the job of drafting a substitute for the Case Labor-Management Mediation Board Bill. The measure to be drafted by the subcommittee, in addition to calling for a labor-management mediation board, would provide for fact-finding boards and amend provisions of present Federal laws regarding responsibility of labor unions.

Seek to Return USES to States

Another subcommittee of the Senate Labor Committee has resumed hearings on the House bill providing for return of the U. S. Employment Service to State administration on June 30, 1946. Two Senate bills also are before the subcommittee. One of these would return administration on June 30, 1947, under certain conditions, and the other would create a system of Federal employment offices.

Senate Approves Krug

The Presidential appointment of Julius A. Krug to the position of Secretary of the Interior received Senate confirmation on March 5.

1945 Pack of Green and Wax Beans Is Reported by N. C. A.

Total pack of canned green and wax beans in 1945 was 15,815,302 actual cases as compared with 16,297,304 actual cases in 1944, the Association's Division of Statistics reported this week. On the basis of 24/2's, the 1945 pack included 16,012,000 cases of canned green beans and 1,353,000 cases of wax beans. The 1944 pack totalled

Forthcoming Meetings

March 18-20—Institute of Food Technologists, Sixth Conference, Hotel Statler, Buffalo, N. Y.

March 27-31—The Frozen Food Institute, Inc., Fifth Annual Convention, Park Ave., Armory, New York, N. Y.

April 2-5—Packaging Exposition of 1946, Atlantic City, N. J.

April 4-5—Tri-State Packers Association, Spring Meeting, Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Md.

April 11—Indiana Canners Association, Spring Meeting, Claypool Hotel, Indianapolis.

June 3—Michigan Canners Association, Spring Meeting, Traverse City.

Ohio Canners Hear Greenleaf

The Ohio Canners Association met March 6 at Columbus, Ohio, the principal items on its program being sanitation and labor problems. At the invitation of the Ohio group, C. A. Greenleaf, Assistant Director of the Washington Laboratory, addressed the meeting on the subject of sanitation, giving the background and current status of the N.C.A. program as well as those of other State and regional groups.

Following the discussion of this topic, a committee was appointed, with in-

structions to take active steps toward setting up a sanitation school such as those which have been held in other States during recent months, and to work out a continuing program of activities in sanitation.

Kentucky Bill Would Relieve Retailers of Warranty Claims

There is now pending in the Kentucky legislature House Bill 398 which, if passed, would relieve retail merchants of claims based on breach of warranty attributed to the condition or fitness of certain food products. Provisions of the bill are as follows:

No owner, operator or keeper of a retail grocery store or food or meat market shall be held to have impliedly warranted the soundness or condition or suitability for use of any article of food or drink for man or domestic animal which is sold by said owner, operator or keeper in the original container, can, box, bottle or other type of container in which it was received by said retailer from a manufacturer, processor or wholesaler and which original container is of such sort and so sealed, stoppered, fastened or inclosed as to make it impracticable to be opened for examination of the contents thereof by the retailer. None of the provisions of KRS 361.150 shall be construed to create an implied warranty in any such case, it being the intention of the General Assembly that KRS 361.150 shall not apply in any case.

The bill was referred to the Kentucky legislature's House Committee on Trade and Commerce on February 19.

Canned Green and Wax Beans

Civilian stocks of canned green and wax beans in canners' hands on January 1, 1946, were 4,125,000 cases, basis No 2's, as compared with 3,125,000 cases, basis 2's, on January 1, 1945, according to the Association's Division of Statistics. The table shown below, which gives comparisons for supplies, stocks and shipments of canned green and wax beans, was compiled from reports from canners who packed about 82 percent of the 1945 pack, together with estimates for those not reporting:

	1944-45		1945-46	
	1944-45	1945-46	1944-45	1945-46
Civilian carryover stocks, July 1.....	30,000	30,000	18,196,000	17,365,000
Pack.....	18,196,000	17,365,000	9,807,000	14,850,000
Total supply.....	18,196,000	17,365,000	3,125,000	4,125,000
Government purchases.....	9,807,000	14,850,000	3,125,000	4,125,000
Civilian supply, January 1.....	3,125,000	4,125,000	5,264,000	10,725,000
Civilian shipments July 1 to January 1.....	5,264,000	10,725,000		

*Carryover stocks small. Information exact level not available. †Estimated government purchases from 1945 pack.

States	1944 Pack		1945 Pack	
	Green Actual cases	Wax Actual cases	Green Actual cases	Wax Actual cases
Maine, Vermont and Massachusetts.....	246,706	314,111	217,398	273,275
New York.....	1,324,068	489,329	1,374,697	480,515
Maryland and Delaware.....	3,104,262	37,268	3,213,142	44,540
Pennsylvania.....	436,426	85,734	380,712	122,712
Indiana.....	81,947	2,111	*	*
Michigan.....	471,386	166,058	406,779	86,695
Wisconsin.....	923,457	299,356	822,130	218,914
Iowa and Nebraska.....	40,405	9,043	31,991	2,578
Kentucky and Tennessee.....	714,948		323,997	
Arkansas and Missouri.....	1,690,071	1,113	1,899,872	
Texas.....	1,011,358		801,659	
Colorado.....	259,915	37,460	253,065	51,482
Utah and Idaho.....	140,159	11,320	136,575	17,560
Washington.....	307,902	4,976	326,747	*
Oregon.....	1,957,191	5,506	1,738,311	*
California.....	524,409		387,415	
Other States.....	1,490,782	15,527	1,995,074	37,297
Total.....	14,818,392	1,478,912	14,529,764	1,385,538

* Included in "Other States."

ANDERSON TO REQUEST THAT PRISONER OF WAR LABOR BE RETAINED FOR AGRICULTURAL WORK ANOTHER YEAR

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson stated on March 6 that he will again bring before the Cabinet at its next meeting the need for retention of prisoners of war for work in agriculture this year. The Secretary's statement was made at a meeting of Senators representing Western farm and sugar beet growing areas called together by Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana for the purpose of obtaining the advice of the Secretary on the question of securing Mexican nationals and retaining PW's. After hearing Secretary Anderson, the meeting adjourned with the adoption of a motion calling for the appointment by Chairman Wheeler of a committee of five Senators to call on the President, the Secretary of War, and the State Department to emphasize the need for prisoners of war and Mexican nationals.

In discussing the Mexican labor situation, the Secretary said that the Department of Agriculture could not enter into an agreement that would discriminate against any State, and to keep faith with the Mexican government, no announcement of the progress of the current negotiations could be made. However, he said, as of January 24, the Mexican government had not changed its position under which its nationals would be prohibited from working in certain States.

The Department believes that prisoner of war labor is necessary, the Secretary said. In a recent Cabinet meeting he raised the question of retaining PW's and understood that they would be kept until April and that the present program under which PW's are being shipped out of the country would not start until that time. Anderson stated that he had been informed on March 4 that the number of PW's assigned for agriculture were in the 10 service commands as follows: 1st—1,100; 2nd—380; 3rd—1,443; 4th—4,107; 5th—111; 6th—222; 7th—389; 8th—6,903; and 10th—16,100.

Because of a prospect of food shortages of every kind, the proposal to feed the rest of the world, and with no indication of the agricultural labor situation improving, as had been expected, the Secretary said he felt the Cabinet should again review the matter of retaining PW's. Another factor contributing to the need for hand labor has been the fact that farm machinery production has not increased as expected.

The Secretary also has requested Congress to give the Department of

Agriculture some authority to recruit United States citizens of Spanish-American origin on the same terms that Mexican nationals were recruited during the war.

Brownlee to Assist Bowles

Chester Bowles, Director of Economic Stabilization, announced this week the appointment of James F. Brownlee as Deputy Director of the Office of Economic Stabilization. Mr. Brownlee served as Deputy Administrator for Price with the Office of Price Administration until last September when he resigned on the advice of his physician. He became OPA Deputy Administrator in August, 1943, after serving four months as Director of Transportation with the War Food Administration.

A graduate of Harvard University, Mr. Brownlee has had more than 30 years business experience. Before World War I he was a member of the sales staff of the American Sugar Refining Company. After the war he returned to the American Sugar Refining Company and from 1924 to 1928 was general sales manager.

In 1920 Mr. Brownlee joined the staff of General Foods Corporation. He became vice president in 1932 and in 1934 was elected a director. In 1935, as trustee of the Jones Properties in Louisville, Kentucky, he became president of Frankfort Distilleries and a director of other companies.

Utah Cannery Officers

Officers of the Utah Cannery Association elected at its recent meeting in Ogden are as follows:

President—Earl A. Randall, General Manager, North Ogden Canning Co., North Ogden, Utah; vice president—Victor R. Smith, General Manager, Box Elder Packing Corp., Clearfield, Utah; secretary-treasurer—Harvey F. Cahill, 321 Kiesel Bldg., Ogden, Utah.

Larkin Named to Top QMC Post

Major General T. B. Larkin has been appointed Quartermaster General of the Army to succeed General Gregory who has gone on to another important assignment, the War Department has announced.

General Larkin served overseas throughout the past war. He commanded with outstanding success the

supply organizations which supported the campaigns in Tunisia, Sicily, Italy and southern France. In February, 1945, he was called to the European theater to help in the backing up of the last great drive which ended the war in Europe.

In addition to his military background which includes graduation from West Point, combat with the 3rd Division in World War I, service in Tokyo as Military attaché, and graduation from both the Army and Naval War Colleges, General Larkin possesses great breadth of experience as an engineer in civil activity. He served as district engineer in flood control on the lower Mississippi, built the huge earth-fill dam at Ft. Peck, Montana, and (until the U. S. entered the war) was in charge of construction of the third locks at Panama.

USDA Meat Board Report

Meat production under Federal inspection for the week ended March 2 totaled 327 million pounds, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture Meat Board. This production was 12 percent more than in the preceding week and also 12 percent more than the 292 million pounds produced during the corresponding week of last year.

U. S. January Imports Higher

The Bureau of the Census announced this week that imports into the United States during January, 1946, were valued at \$398,000,000, the highest monthly value since May, 1929, when they amounted to \$400,000,000. The January figure was substantially higher than the December, 1945, import value of \$297,000,000.

The Bureau also announced that United States exports under the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Program during January, 1946, totaled \$126,000,000 compared with the previous high in December, 1945, of \$90,000,000. In January, 1946, the value of UNRRA exports from the United States represented 16 percent of the value of total exports and 19 percent of the value of all non-Lend-lease exports in comparison with 12 percent and 16 percent, respectively, in December, 1945.

Total United States exports in January, 1946, rose to \$800,000,000, a gain of 9 percent over the December, 1945, level of \$736,000,000. Non-Lend-lease shipments during January rose to \$660,000,000, 22 percent higher than the December, 1945, value of \$549,000,000 and almost twice the average 1945 monthly value of \$354,000,000.

Secretary of Commerce Henry A. Wallace Endorses "General Objectives and Spirit" of Committee's Report on Standards

Secretary of Commerce Henry A. Wallace this week in a letter written to Charles E. Wilson, Chairman of the Policy Committee on Standards of the Department of Commerce, endorsed "the general objectives and spirit" of the committee's report on its program with regard to the establishment of standards. Excerpts of Secretary Wallace's letter are listed below:

"I believe that the Department can accept whole heartedly the general objectives and spirit of your Committee Report, which is to encourage the wider use of standards in industry and to bring about the greatest possible co-operation among the various organizations active in this field. The Department will be delighted to see the American Standards Association and other organizations pursue a vigorous program in the field of trade standards and will cooperate to the fullest extent in providing both scientific and technical, and economic and marketing data which will be useful in such a program.

"One of the two principal recommendations of your Committee fits in very well with the plans for the reorganization of the Department. I refer to the recommendation that the divisions of Simplified Trade Practices and Commercial Standards be transferred out of the Bureau of Standards to a 'more suitable status elsewhere in the Department,' and that 'the Bureau of Standards' functions should be those of basic research, furnishing of facts, measurements and technical assistance in the development of adequate testing methods.' The logical place for these two divisions is the new Office of Domestic Commerce, which will be responsible for the Department's general services and programs for the promotion of domestic industry, business and trade. In accordance with your recommendations, I am planning to have these divisions transferred from the National Bureau of Standards to the Office of Domestic Commerce as soon as it is legally possible and suitable internal arrangements can be made.

"The other principal recommendation of your Committee is that the Department of Commerce withdraw from the field of initiating and publishing standards which are voluntarily agreed to by industry groups as soon as the American Standards Association 'implements itself for such functions.' Your Committee has supported this recommendation with the following considerations: (1) that 'interested private groups are best qualified to initiate and formulate voluntary standards'; (2) there is now some duplication of effort as between the American Standards Association and the Department; and (3) the voluntary standards published by the National Bureau of Standards have sometimes been mis-

interpreted as scientifically determined government standards, or as compulsory standards.

"Certainly the Department does not wish to *compete* with, or to *duplicate*, the services which private organizations can provide equally well, nor does the Department wish to have voluntary industry standards misinterpreted as scientific or compulsory government standards. We have tried to guard against such misinterpretations by printing on the face of the booklets published by the National Bureau of Standards, 'A RECORDED VOLUNTARY STANDARD OF THE TRADE,' and in other ways.

"In view of the above considerations, I envisage that after their transfer from the National Bureau of Standards the divisions of Simplified Trade Practice and Commercial Standards will perform the following functions with respect to voluntary trade standards and simplified trade practices:

"1. As recommended by your Committee, sponsor and perform basic research in the economic and marketing fields for the American Standards Association and other groups and organizations engaged in formulating voluntary standards or desiring to initiate standards;

"2. As recommended by your Committee, act as sponsor for groups in proposing standards to the ASA for issuance as American Standards;

"3. Retain the Department's present function of initiating and proposing to the ASA or to any other group or groups the development of voluntary standards where the Department finds on the basis of economic studies that such standards would be desirable in the public interest; and

"4. Retain the function of publishing a voluntary standard developed by a group if that group requests the Department to publish. Such standards will be published by the Department of Commerce (not the National Bureau of Standards) and will clearly indicate the industry or other group or groups on whose behalf the Department is publishing. However, where testing methods or the research of the National Bureau of Standards have contributed to the establishment of particular standards appropriate credit will be given to the Bureau in publication.

"This in general will mean the continuance of the functions of the Department on commercial standards and simplified trade practices in accordance with well established procedures. However, the Department would be prepared as a matter of policy to suggest, when the Association's facilities are adequate, that standards be submitted to the ASA for publication as American Standards. The business group would, however, be perfectly

free to make its own decision as to whether to publish the standard under its own name; through the American Standards Association; or through the Department of Commerce."

January Canned Poultry Pack Shows Decline from Last Year

The quantity of poultry canned or used in canning during January totaled 13,020,000 pounds, compared with 15,343,000 pounds in January a year ago and 13,191,000 pounds in January, 1944, the Department of Agriculture reports. Canning operations are on a high peacetime level, considering the fact that very little canned poultry is now going to the armed services, compared with large quantities canned for them in January last year. The poultry canned during January consisted of 12,538,000 pounds of chicken and 482,000 pounds of turkey.

The following table shows the quantity of poultry (dressed weight) canned by months during 1944 and 1945 and during January, 1946:

	1944 Pounds	1945 Pounds	1946 Pounds
January	13,191,000	15,343,000	13,020,000
February	13,686,000	16,390,000	.....
March	13,261,000	18,746,000	.....
April	10,564,000	18,392,000	.....
May	10,056,000	20,011,000	.....
June	11,294,000	14,401,000	.....
July	7,839,000	7,764,000	.....
August	6,701,000	8,034,000	.....
September	6,476,000	4,759,000	.....
October	10,432,000	5,815,000	.....
November	15,449,000	8,972,000	.....
December	12,852,000	7,960,000	.....
Total	131,801,000	146,587,000	13,020,000

Grades for Canned Dried Prunes

United States standards for grades of canned dried prunes have been developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and became effective March 1, 1946. Cannerymen desiring copies of these grades may secure them by writing E. L. Southerland, chief, Processed Products Standardization and Inspection Division, Fruit and Vegetable Branch, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Georgia Cannerymen Elect

The following officers were elected at the recent meeting of the Georgia Cannerymen Association at Savannah:

President—Fondren Mitchell, Mitchell Canneries, Thomasville, Ga.; first vice president—Ed Holmes, Holmes Canning Co., Sandersville, Ga.; second vice president—J. J. Edwards, Besco Products Co., Zebulon, Ga.; and secretary and treasurer—Wallace W. Seoville, Mitchell Canneries, Thomasville, Ga.

ODT Head Suggests Program to "Break" Box-car Shortage

A program which should "break the present box-car shortage inside of thirty days" has been suggested to the railroads by Col. J. Monroe Johnson, Director of the Office of Defense Transportation, the ODT has announced. Colonel Johnson specified the following measures which the railroads should adopt at once "to increase the efficiency of cars and obtain a faster movement":

1. More promptly move cars made empty at industrial sidings.

2. More efficiently check railroad yards for cars on hand and establish adequate records of cars in yards and terminals.

3. More carefully inspect cars for loading before they are placed, to determine whether or not they are suitable for loading of the commodity to be shipped.

4. Increase the use of embargoes and issue them promptly when cars are detained by shippers.

5. Each railroad should immediately review its own operations, particularly those of its yards and terminals and begin a program which will insure that no car delay is chargeable to it. I think that each operating division of every railroad in the country should appoint one or more transportation inspectors or men familiar with car delay and operating matters to represent the Superintendent directly and to search out and put in proper channels any cars which are being delayed for any reason including those which are under repair.

6. Repair forces should be increased, if necessary.

7. The yard forces should be increased, if that is the answer to better service.

8. Authority should be given by the executives to the subordinate officials to do whatever is necessary to begin, promote and complete such a program.

9. Operating executives of each railroad should get the responsible subordinates of the transportation and operating section together and plan a coordinated program to give effect to the recommendations herein cited.

OPA Increases Steel Prices

Increases averaging \$5 per ton in steel mill ceiling prices for all basic steel products were announced this week by the Office of Price Administration. The increases became effective March 1, 1946, and may be applied on all deliveries of steel since February 15, 1946, the date upon which Stabilization Administrator John C. Collet directed OPA to increase carbon and alloy steel mill products an average of \$5 a ton. They represent an increase

of 8.2 percent in the average realized price of all steel. The new average realized price of all steel, both carbon and alloy, is \$65.92 per ton compared with \$60.92 per ton previously.

The mill ceiling price increases announced by OPA, of interest to canners, are as follows, and are applicable to sales of both prime and secondary quality carbon steel products:

Tin plate, including hot dipped, electrolytic and can-making quality black plate, 25 cents per base box. For all such material sold on a 100 pound basis, 25 cents per 100 pounds may be added.

Terne plate, 25 cents per 100 pounds.

Long terne sheets, 25 cents per 100 pounds.

Cuban Sugar and Pineapple

Cuba's production of raw sugar in 1946, estimated at 4,800,000 short tons, will be about 22 percent larger than that of 1945, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce. Cuba shipped the bulk of its raw sugar to the United States in 1945 (2,750,938 tons), with 562,707 tons going to the United Kingdom and 75,983 tons to Canada. Shipments of refined sugar, blackstrap molasses and invert molasses to the United States in 1945 were also large. If weather conditions are normal during 1946, an all-time record sugar crop is expected in early 1947.

Pineapple production in 1946 has been forecast at from 20 to 30 percent

over the 2,453,000 crates produced in 1945, with exports approaching the 1937 peak of 1,273,000 crates. With the current Hawaiian crop damaged by drought and a resultant shortage of canned pineapple in the United States, Cuban shippers look forward to a strong export market here for their fresh pineapple.

Dehydrated Tomato Products

Cancellation of the dehydrated tomato products program has left a surplus of 236,000 cases equivalent 6/10's of tomato puree, 12,000 cases equivalent 6/10's of tomato paste, and 120,000 5-gallon cans of tomato puree, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced. Information concerning the sale of these items is expected to be released soon.

Chilean Citrus Crop Larger

About 600 thousand boxes of oranges, averaging 200 per box, and 625 thousand boxes of lemons, averaging 240 per box, were produced in Chile during the 1944-45 season, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce. Output for 1943-44 was 500 thousand boxes of oranges and 417 thousand boxes of lemons. The 1945-46 crop for both oranges and lemons is expected to reach an all-time high as many new trees are ready to bear and the weather has been favorable.

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